GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3227
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
INDO- US NUKE DEAL
Meghwal Shri Kailash;Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has not presented a "non-paper" on its draft of the 123 agreement to the United States on nuclear deal as reported in the Times of India dated February 17, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and its adverse impact on the nuclear deal and the diplomatic image of India; and

(c) the substantive steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes. India has not presented a "non-paper" on its draft of the 123 agreement to the United States as reported in the Times of India dated February 17, 2007.

(b)-(c) India and US are engaged in discussion and negotiation to conclude the bilateral cooperation agreement, which is referred to as the "123 Agreement" and which is a pre-requisite for nuclear cooperation and trade with the United States. As part of the negotiation process, India has forwarded a draft text of the 123 Agreement to the US side in February 2007.